

RECEIVED

DEC 09 1999

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CHARLES HARPER

EIS000644

MR. HARPER: Charles Harper, H-a-r-p-e-r.

Back about 1960, I was a fireman down in California. And all of a sudden my wife and I were driving home, went out to dinner, and news broadcast was on the radio that said that my squadron had been called back to active duty. My wife didn't realize that until I had to explain to her how that was going to happen.

And subsequently, they took my squadron and melted it with two other squadrons from Texas and sent us the out to Barbara's Point, Hawaii. From there we went to Christmas Island, 1300 miles south.

We were in the middle of the Cuban Crisis, the Wall, all those things that were going on at that time, and our President thought it best to show a bit of strength to the world. We set off 17 atomic bombs out there, and our squadron patrolled the area around it to make sure that shipping and other life was away from the island when the bombs were exploded.

I personally saw these 17 bombs within 30 miles of us go off. Then they sent me out to Johnson Island, and through infinite wisdom of our government they shot a rocket into space to perform the first atomic explosion into space. I was part of it. I had to do it. It was my job.

I have seen a beautiful sight. It is just like watching this rangeland fire out here this last summer. It was beautiful, but it was so destructive, so terribly destructive.

Our show of force isn't even mentioned down in Albuquerque at the Atomic Museum. I had a chance to be down there this summer and went through there and looked on the walls with all these different things that happened. It is kind of a neat museum. No mention of Christmas Island, none whatsoever.

They took me out of my private job, put me back in the Navy, took a year and-a-half out of my life, to show a show of force that wasn't even recognized. Now we have got a chance to recognize some of this force now.

1 | This state does not need any nuclear depository here. It's proven there's fault lines in Yucca Mountain. I was on a tour down at Yucca Mountain. I was amazed. |

2 | I was going to go through the book and say a lot of things about different things I saw down there. But I was amazed at the amount of money spent, the amount of people working there, to try to prove that this would work, and they are the ones that are saying to me in the background that, no, it ain't going to work, but the government wants to pay me, I'll take the money.

①

2  
continued

Well, folks, I hope this is one thing that we can kill them on. This is the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. If you read it really close there is a couple of good paragraphs in here that will put Yucca Mountain back to Yucca Mountain and not a Yucca Mountain repository. Thank you.